

30. (Amended) The mouse of Claim 29, wherein said symptom is skin lesions on the ear(s) of the mouse.

32. (Amended) The mouse of Claim 30, wherein the skin lesions are at least one member selected from the group consisting of erythema, edema, excoriation, and scaling.

33. (Amended) The mouse of Claim 30, wherein the skin lesions are erythema.

34. The mouse of Claim 29, wherein the symptom is ear swelling.

35. (Amended) A method of producing the mouse of Claim 29, comprising:
maintaining a NC/Nga mouse in a Specific Pathogen Free environment and sensitizing the ear(s) of the mouse with the mite extract.

36. (Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein the animal is sensitized with the mite extract for at least 5 days.

37. A method of screening for an agent for effectiveness against atopic dermatitis, comprising:

applying at least one agent to the mouse of Claim 29,
determining whether the agent reduced one or more symptoms of atopic dermatitis,
correlating a reduction in said one or more symptoms with effectiveness against atopic dermatitis, and
correlating a lack of reduction in said one or more symptoms with ineffectiveness against atopic dermatitis.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments are supported by the specification at pages 2-17 and by original Claims 1-20. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.